



# Towards better water policies: how can increasing the uptake of research findings help?

The results of a SPLASH ERA-Net  
e-conference

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# Presentation structure

- What is SPLASH ERA-Net?
- The e-conference process
- Findings
- Conclusions and Next Steps
- Appeal to GLOWA delegates

# What is the **SPLASH ERA-Net**?



- European Union Water Initiative European Research Area Network (EUWI ERA-Net)
- Consortium of 15 ministries, funding agencies, and research and technology authorities from 11 countries within the EU: Austria, Belgium, Czech Rep., Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, UK.
- Funded under EC Framework Programme 6



# Aims of the SPLASH ERA-Net

- To improve water and sanitation research for poverty reduction and to contribute to MDGs
- To coordinate existing research programmes to identify gaps and minimise duplication
- To design collaborative research programmes
- To map good research management
- To support transfer of research into policy/practice

# E-conference aim



- “Towards better water and sanitation policies: how can increasing the uptake of research findings help?”:
  - to explore linkages between research and water sector policy development
  - to find examples of successful/unsuccessful incorporation of research into policy
  - to inform researchers on good practice



# E-conference process

- 3 week consultation
- Parallel English and French discussions
- Chair and facilitators
- Outputs



# Participation

- 160 subscribers
  - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Malawi, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK
- 46 messages by 26 (16%) subscribers

# Theme 1: Where are we now and where do we want to get to?



- Are linkages between research and policy development **realistic, achievable and desirable**?
- **Examples** of policy development relating to water resources, water supply and sanitation, where the influence of research is/is not apparent





## Theme 2: How do we get there?

- How can the links between research and policy be strengthened by researchers, research funders and policy makers in:
  - **identifying** useful research?
  - **defining** the research agenda?
  - **implementing** research findings?
  - **communicating** research?



# Findings- Theme 1: Where are we now & where do we want to get to?

1. Understanding stakeholder participation
2. Recognising barriers to participation
3. The will to learn lessons
4. Warning!- Externally-driven research agendas



## Findings - Theme 2: How do we get there?

1. Need interfaces to bridge different worlds
2. Need access to the right people
3. Need a collaboration culture
4. Use participatory approaches
5. Effective communication & dissemination



## Theme 2: How do we get there?

- 6. Policy change is slow
- 7. Utilizing existing structures
- 8. Monitoring & evaluation of impact



# Next steps: in-country visits

## – Issues:

- maintaining an awareness of wider research trends that are seen to have national relevance
- maintaining an awareness of wider policy trends that are seen to have national relevance
- capturing and incorporating global and regional research and policy trends into national policy and strategy

# Appeal to GLOWA Conference delegates



- To those involved in research management and policy making
- Have an interest/experience in the links between research and policy
- Provide examples of effective research/policy linkages
- Contribute to the SPLASH ERA-Net in short interviews